



December 1, 1999

TO: Governor Gary Locke

FROM: Subcabinet on Management Improvement and Results

SUBJECT: 1999 REGULATORY IMPROVEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

This is the third annual progress report on how agencies have implemented your executive order on regulatory improvement – EO 97-02. The report is required by the executive order and is based on information submitted by agencies to the Office of the Governor, as of October 15, 1999.

State agencies continue to make major strides in implementing your executive order to ensure that state regulations meet standards of need, reasonableness, effectiveness, clarity, fairness, stakeholder involvement, coordination, and consistency with legislative intent. In their efforts to modernize and streamline administrative rules, large and small agencies alike have committed significant resources and energy to the review, modification and improvement, and repeal of their regulations. Many agencies have also:

- Instituted new, simplified regulatory processes designed to save time and effort for agency clients and staff;
- Developed new Internet applications that make rules, policies, and other documents readily available to those affected by them;
- Expanded stakeholder involvement in rule making through new outreach efforts, newsletters, and electronic access;
- Made clear rule-writing the norm through training of staff and preparation of plain language manuals; and
- Reviewed and eliminated unnecessary and excessive policy and interpretive statements and business reporting requirements.

Washington is considered a national leader in regulatory reform and receives frequent requests for information about its program from other states.

The following summarizes the progress and accomplishments of agencies in meeting EO 97-02 regulatory improvement goals, as of October 15, 1999.

SUMMARY OF RULE REPEALS AND AMENDMENTS

State agencies, particularly those with regulatory authority, intensified their rule review activity during the third year of the executive order.

- All agencies have now reviewed a total of 18,722 sections of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), compared to 10,651 sections reviewed as of October of 1998 and 2,629 sections in 1997. This represents an additional 8,071 rules reviewed in the last year by all agencies.
- Repealed rule sections for all state agencies now total 4,673, compared to 3,614 in 1998 and 1,935 rule repeals in 1997. This represents an increase of over 1,000 repealed rules since October 1998.
- Number of pages eliminated from the WAC now total an estimated 1,326, compared to 972 pages in 1998 and 591 in 1997.
- The total number of sections amended under new clear rule writing requirements increased to 5,208, from 2,746 in 1998 and 800 in 1997.
- Twenty of the 57 agencies reporting under the executive order have already reviewed 100 percent of their rules. Another 10 agencies have reviewed 70 percent or more of their WAC sections.

Cumulative rule review totals. Based on reports received from state agencies as of October 15, 1999, the following are cumulative totals (since EO 97-02 was issued on March 25, 1997) of the number of rule sections reviewed under the executive order, rules repealed, rules amended, and pages eliminated from the WAC for all state agencies, Executive Cabinet agencies, Small Agency Cabinet agencies, and non-cabinet agencies:

All State Agencies

Rule sections reviewed -	18,722
Rule sections repealed -	4,673
Rule sections amended -	5,208
WAC pages eliminated -	1,326.45

Small Agency Cabinet

Rule sections reviewed -	767
Rule sections repealed -	74
Rule sections amended -	197
WAC pages eliminated -	18.95

Cabinet Agencies

Rule sections reviewed -	16,075
Rule sections repealed -	4,383
Rule sections amended -	4,515
WAC pages eliminated -	1,281.5

Non-Cabinet Agencies

Rule sections reviewed -	1,880
Rule sections repealed -	216
Rule sections amended -	496
WAC pages eliminated -	26

AGENCY RULE REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

The following summarizes some of the more significant agency accomplishments in eliminating and modifying rules and policy and interpretive statements to conform with review criteria in the executive order:

- **Department of Social and Health Services** (DSHS) continues its aggressive rule review and improvement efforts. It has begun a process of **migrating all of its rules under a single WAC title for ease of reference** for agency customers and staff. DSHS has also **prepared a comprehensive clear rule writing manual** for all of its employees and for use by other agencies. DSHS reviewed 1,057 rule sections this last year, bringing its cumulative total to 2,665. Of those sections, it has repealed 923 and amended 441. The agency has now eliminated an estimated 278 pages of WAC. DSHS achieved a dramatic regulatory simplification goal in 1998 by replacing seven volumes of public assistance requirements with a new single **“Eligibility A-Z Manual” – an 82 percent reduction in text** and a net reduction of 226 rules. DSHS has accomplished many of its goals by thoroughly training its managers and staff. Over 160 of its employees have had clear rule writing training, and 70 key staff have undergone training in the Administrative Procedure Act.
- **Department of Labor and Industries** (L&I) is still substantially ahead of its scheduled four-year plan. Since 1997, the agency has now **reviewed 3,203 rule sections**, compared to its original target of reviewing 1,866 rules by October 1999. It has eliminated an estimated 302 pages of regulations, repealed 822 sections, and amended 1,295. Approximately **200 agency staff have been trained in clear rule writing**, which has resulted in some **1,535 sections of L&I rules being rewritten using these user-friendly writing standards**. L&I has assumed a leadership role in promoting rule clarity and simplification, and has assisted other agencies in this effort through a master request for proposal for clear rule writing. It has also **implemented “usability testing” of rules** where volunteer customers are given a dry run on using and understanding a rule. The department reviewed 1,160 policies and eliminated 49. Thirteen of the eliminated policies have been converted into rules to ensure Administrative Procedure Act compliance. L&I has involved 1,286 individuals and organizations in its rule review effort.
- **Department of Health** has **reviewed 1,361 WAC sections since March of 1997**, and expects to complete another 351 sections by the end of this year. Thus far, the department has eliminated 171 pages of WAC, compared to 52 in 1998, and repealed 541 rule sections, compared 253 in 1998. The agency has **reviewed 401 interpretive statements**, policies, and other documents. In keeping with the executive order, 46 of these were adopted into rule, 84 were amended, 247 were retained, and 24 were repealed. Specific rule improvements include eliminating regulatory confusion with respect to temporary worker housing, improving and clarifying standards relating to sexual misconduct for health care practitioners, and **improved rules regarding rural health by consolidating and streamlining processes** and simplifying grant applications. The Department has **consolidated administrative requirements for 43 health professions into a single WAC chapter** and repealed 69 occupation-specific rules.

- **Department of Ecology** has now reviewed 801 rule sections, repealed 89 sections, and eliminated 41 pages of WAC. Ecology has also **rewritten three of its major regulatory chapters using plain English** and an easy-to-use question and answer format. It has **coordinated and streamlined forest practices rules** with the Department of Natural Resources by eliminating co-adoption of these regulations by Ecology. The agency now makes all of its 149 rules and 2,807 publications available on the Internet for ease in customer access. The **public can now submit comments online** on Ecology's proposed rules and will soon be able subscribe to an electronic newsletter covering all of the agency's publications. In response to the EO's requirement to minimize business reporting, Ecology has instituted Turbowaste, which allows businesses to report dangerous waste electronically.
- **Department of Employment Security** has now reviewed 193 rule sections or over **92 percent of all of its rules**. Thirteen sections have been amended, 61 repealed, and three pages of WAC were eliminated. This year, the department instituted a new process that allows individuals to **file unemployment claims primarily by telephone**. Paperwork cleanup has been a big priority for the department. A review of all Unemployment Insurance Job Service Memoranda resulted in **71 memoranda being canceled**. In all, 277 out of 331 pages of information were eliminated, a reduction of 84 percent. The agency also **threw out 62 of the 81 UI Benefit Circulars**, resulting in elimination of 380 pages of instruction materials – a 76 percent reduction. Similar paperwork cleanup has occurred with UI Tax Publications and Employment and Training policies.
- **Department of Agriculture** has reviewed 1,517 of its rules, repealed 407, and **eliminated approximately 60 pages of WAC**. In some instances, Agriculture repealed entire chapters of WAC and replaced them with clear and readable language. It has **reviewed 68 percent of all of its regulations**. The agency also extended its review to include underlying statutes. A thorough review of dairy and food laws resulted in the **repeal of seven RCW chapters** and 207 related regulations
- **Department of Licensing** has reviewed 974 of its rules, amended 311, and repealed 239. It has **reviewed 68 percent of its regulations** since 1997. The agency has eliminated 36 pages of WAC and 27 policy statements. Like other agencies, Licensing has adopted the question and answer format for clear rule writing.
- **Department of Natural Resources** has reviewed 61 sections of WAC and amended 43. Major rule making efforts of the department have concentrated on Forests and Fish Emergency and Permanent Rules, Landscape Permits (moving from a permit-by-permit approach to one which considers cumulative impacts), Watershed Analysis Rules, Road Rules, Civil Penalty Rules, and Outdoor Burning Rules. In February of 1998, the Forest Practices Board used negotiated rule making and the expedited adoption process to adopt rules on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. These rules involved all stakeholders and resolved long-standing jurisdictional disputes in the area.

- **Department of Revenue** has already reviewed 71 percent of its rules – 383 out of 537 rule sections. Thus far, Revenue has repealed 49 regulations, amended 41, and eliminated 13 pages of WAC. It has also reviewed 239 interpretive documents. It anticipates repealing 105 of them after incorporating some of the documents into administrative rules. The department makes all rules and policy statements, as well as their reviews, available on the Internet for easy access by taxpayers and practitioners. People can receive all proposed rules and comment on them via the Internet.
- **Office of the Insurance Commissioner** has completed a preliminary review of 100 percent of its 785 WAC sections, repealed 47, and eliminated five pages of rules. It has also withdrawn 103 of its 166 bulletins.
- **Department of Fish and Wildlife** has reviewed 308 sections of rules, repealed 48, and eliminated 10 pages of WAC.
- **Department of Retirement Systems** has reviewed 75 percent of its rules and repealed 38 sections. It has revamped all of the Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters' Retirement System disability rules to more clearly describe qualifications and procedures and has updated rules regarding interest charges on overdue receivables to conform to technology changes, state law, and clear rule writing standards.
- **University of Washington** has reviewed 174 rule sections or 78 percent of its WACs. It has repealed 62 sections and amended 66.
- **Office of Financial Management** has reviewed 100 percent of its 148 sections of WAC, repealed 81 sections, and eliminated 17.5 pages of rules. OFM finished a major regulatory streamlining project by completely redesigning the State Administrative and Accounting Manual. Approximately 100 pages of text were eliminated. The Manual is available on OFM's website with hot links to related information. Over 850 customers opted to forego the hard copy, saving \$20,000 in production costs. OFM also requested legislation that eliminated 18 obsolete and unnecessary reports.
- **Human Rights Commission** has reviewed over half of its rules, amended 18, and repealed 28 sections. Significant accomplishments include a rewrite of sensitive regulations about employment, sex, and disability discrimination. Readability and clarity of these rules were strengthened and two chapters were reduced by nearly 50 percent in overall length. Updates included more contemporary examples and more accurate reflection of current case law and statute.
- **Health Care Authority** has reviewed 90 percent of its rules, repealed 19 sections, and amended 43.
- **Attorney General's Office** has reviewed 100 percent of its rules and streamlined reporting requirements for its Lemon Law program.

Other Agencies

- **Office of Administrative Hearings** (100 percent of rules reviewed, including an updated Model Rules of Procedure for use by all agencies);
- **Department of General Administration** (100 percent of rules reviewed);
- **Department of Corrections** (100 percent of WAC sections reviewed, with 47 sections repealed);
- **Department of Financial Institutions** (142 rules repealed, 73 percent of all rules reviewed);
- **Washington State Lottery** (253 rules repealed and 166 pages of WAC eliminated);
- **Washington State Patrol** (93 percent of rules reviewed, 126 repealed);
- **Utilities and Transportation Commission** (152 rules repealed);
- **Department of Personnel** (546 sections reviewed);
- **Community and Technical College Board** (32 rules repealed);
- **County Road Administration Board** (100 percent of rules reviewed, 52 rules repealed);
- **Higher Education Coordinating Board** (100 rules repealed);
- **Liquor Control Board** (72 percent of WACs reviewed);
- **Military Department** (100 percent of WACs reviewed); and
- **State Board of Health** (178 sections reviewed, 36 repealed, and 16 pages of WAC eliminated)

REGULATORY PROCESS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In addition to reviewing rules, EO 97-02 directs agencies to pursue overall improvements in regulatory processes, with the goal of streamlining and simplifying procedures for those who must comply with state regulations. Following are examples of some of these efforts that have occurred during the last year:

- **L&I Applies Usability Testing.** As a follow-up to its clear rule writing effort, L&I has started usability testing on its rules. This is basically a dry run on how customers understand and use a rule. Volunteers are asked to deal with various situations that will be faced in complying with a rule. They are asked to record their experiences. The process gives L&I direct feedback on rules. It has used the process on Agricultural and Respiratory Protection rules and will make changes based on the feedback. L&I will apply usability testing to four additional sets of rules next year and plans to incorporate testing permanently into its rule development process.
- **Employment Security Moves to TeleCenters as the Primary Means to Process Unemployment Claims and Starts Online Access to Forms and Rules.** The Department now receives most of the initial claims for unemployment benefits by telephone rather than in-person. The process will result in improved customer service and more efficient claims processing. The agency's website contains comprehensive information about unemployment insurance, which includes the Benefit Policy Guide and links to all laws and regulations about the program. Clients can e-mail their questions about the program directly to agency staff.
- **DSHS Publishes Clear Rule Writing Style Guide, Expands Usability Testing, and Expands its "Eligibility A-Z Manual."** The new Clear Rule Writing Style Guide provides clear, consistent advice on drafting rules. It is a major step toward institutionalizing clear rule writing within the agency. Its guidelines are general enough to be used as a model for rule writing throughout state government. Examples of clear rule writing include elimination of "legalese" and unnecessary technical language, using the question and answer format for rules, and using simpler words like "find out" instead of "ascertain" and "start" rather than "commence." DSHS has also expanded usability testing of rules and documents to the Division of Child Support and the WorkFirst Division. DSHS' major 1998 regulatory process simplification achievement – the "Eligibility A-Z Manual" – is now on the DSHS Intranet. It allows the agency to reach all of its 64 widely separated field offices instantly and simultaneously with important policy and procedure information.
- **Revenue Reduces Unnecessary Tax Filing and Expands Internet Filing.** The Department of Revenue successfully pursued legislation to allow active businesses that had income below the taxable threshold to be placed in an active, non-reporting status. This means that 195,000 small businesses below the threshold no longer have to file tax returns when no tax is due – resulting in convenience and savings for the department and its clients. Also, the Department of Revenue has now become a national leader in allowing businesses to file tax returns using the Internet, as more and more businesses take advantage of this innovative service to taxpayers.

- **Ecology and Department of Natural Resources Consolidate Forest Practices Rules.** In keeping with the spirit of EO 97-02, Ecology and DNR worked together to consolidate forest and fish rules under DNR. Two rules were merged into one. Removing Ecology from the co-adoption process reduces confusion for the regulated community that had to track and comply with two separate, but equal, regulations. This will streamline rule making and save time for staff and stakeholders alike.
- **Department of Health and L&I Create Regulatory Consistency.** The departments worked closely with Federal OSHA, labor, growers associations, and farmworker advocates to create a single set of rules to protect workers who stay in temporary labor camps. The new rules eliminate conflicting requirements between state agencies and the federal government and provide regulatory certainty for growers. They also achieve one of the major goals of EO 97-02 – rule-making coordination and consistency between regulatory agencies.
- **Public Employees' Benefits Board (PEBB) Streamlines Eligibility Requirements.** The PEBB condensed three eligibility standards for different groups into one standard approach for group participation in the PEBB and the waiving of medical coverage for individual employees. All of the new standards are in one booklet. This is a major customer service improvement for the agency and its clients.
- **OFM Simplifies Accounting Manual.** OFM completely redesigned and simplified its cumbersome State Administrative and Accounting manual by eliminating about 100 pages of text, reorganizing its contents, and implementing a new easy-to-use numbering scheme. The new manual uses plain, concise language and is designed for readability and searchability. It is all on OFM's website, and 850 of OFM's customers have opted for the electronic version over the hard copy, saving about \$20,000 in distribution costs.
- **Liquor Control Board Implements Regulatory Process Improvements.** The LCB has implemented a number of process and customer service improvements. It has streamlined and simplified beer and wine tax reporting requirements, and given licensees the ability to report via the Internet. It has also streamlined requirements for liquor license applicants and simplified the administrative violation process by eliminating four months of processing time.

Agency Results of Regulatory Review
As of October 15, 1999
(Cumulative Totals)

Executive Cabinet	Plan Submitted	Progress Reports Submitted	WAC Sections Repealed	WAC Sections Amended	WAC Sections Reviewed	Percent of Total WAC Sections Reviewed	WAC Pages Eliminated
Agriculture, Department of	Yes	Yes	407	389	1517	68	60
Comm. & Technical College System Board	Yes	Yes	32	67	163	n/r	7
Comm.Trade, and Econ Dev., Dept. of	Yes	Yes	57	18	62	n/r	6
Corrections, Department of	Yes	Yes	47	3	238	100	10
Ecology, Department of	Yes	Yes	89	180	801	31	41
Employment Security, Department of	Yes	Yes	61	13	193	92.5	3
Financial Institutions, Department of	Yes	Yes	142	78	500	73	34
Financial Management, Office of	Yes	Yes	81	0	148	100	17.5
Fish and Wildlife, Department of	Yes	Yes	48	251	308	34	10
General Administration, Dept. of	Yes	Yes	65	62	266	100	24.5
Health Care Authority	Yes	Yes	19	43	107	90	4
Health, Department of	Yes	Yes	541	671	1361	58	171
Higher Education Coordinating Board	Yes	Yes	112	4	115	n/r	33
Information Services, Department of	Yes	Yes	0	0	16	100	0
Labor and Industries, Department of	Yes	Yes	822	1295	3203	57	302
Licensing, Department of	Yes	Yes	239	311	974	68	36
Liquor Control Board	Yes	Yes	2	17	222	72	3
Lottery, Washington State	Yes	Yes	253	11	264	70	166
Military Department	Yes	Yes	3	23	150	100	4
Parks & Recreation, State	Yes	Yes	28	43	150	56	4
Personnel, Department of	Yes	Yes	20	224	546	69	15
Retirement Systems, Department of	Yes	Yes	38	69	261	75	4.5
Revenue, Department of	Yes	Yes	49	41	383	71	13
Social & Health Services, Dept. of	Yes	Yes	923	441	2665	65	278
Transportation, Department of	Yes	Yes	27	88	449	86	4
Utilities & Transportation Comm.	Yes	Yes	152	87	293	48	15
Veterans' Affairs, Department of	Yes	Yes	0	0	13	23	0
Washington State Patrol	Yes	Yes	126	86	707	93	16
TOTAL			4,383	4,515	16,075		1,281.5

Small Agency Cabinet	Plan Submitted	Progress Reports Submitted	WAC Sections Repealed	WAC Sections Amended	WAC Sections Reviewed	Percent of Total WAC Sections Reviewed	WAC Pages Eliminated
Accountancy, Board of	Yes	Yes	10	13	24	62	.5
Administrative Hearings, Office of	Yes	Yes	2	27	38	100	.25
Conservation Commission, State	No	Yes	0	0	2	100	0
Environmental Hearings Office	Yes	Yes	0	6	161	100	0
Growth Management Hearings Office	Yes	Yes	5	23	94	100	1
Human Rights Commission	Yes	Yes	28	18	57	51	4.5
Outdoor Rec., Interagency, Committee for	Yes	Yes	2	28	28	100	0
Pollution Liability Insurance Program	Yes	Yes	10	0	55	100	3
Public Disclosure Commission	Yes	Yes	7	25	45	35	1.7
School for the Blind, State	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0
School for the Deaf, State	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0
Services for the Blind, Department of	Yes	Yes	0	9	77	n/r	0
Tax Appeals, Board of	Yes	Yes	3	24	140	100	1
Traffic Safety Commission	Yes	Yes	0	1	16	100	0
Workforce Training & Ed Coord. Board	Yes	Yes	7	23	30	100	7
TOTAL	n/a	n/a	74	197	767		18.95

Non-Cabinet Agencies	Plan Submitted	Progress Reports Submitted	WAC Sections Repealed	WAC Sections Amended	WAC Sections Reviewed	Percent of Total WAC Sections Reviewed	WAC Pages Eliminated
Attorney General	Yes	Yes	1	12	70	100	1
Board of Health, State	Yes	Yes	36	86	178	43	16
Central Washington University	Yes	Yes	10	20	n/r	n/r	n/r
County Road Administration Board	Yes	Yes	52	62	216	100	3
Criminal Justice Training Commission	Yes	Yes	0	0	99	100	0
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council	Yes	Yes	0	13	20	20	0
Industrial Insurance Appeals, Board of	Yes	Yes	0	7	44	100	0
Natural Resources, Department of	Yes	Yes	0	43	61	n/r	0
Office of the Insurance Commissioner	Yes	Yes	47	67	785	n/r	5
Public Employment Relations Comm.	Yes	Yes	3	97	120	66	0
Public Works Board	Yes	Yes	0	22	26	100	0
Sentencing Guidelines Commission	Yes	Yes	0	0	20	100	0
University of Washington	Yes	Yes	62	66	174	78	0
Washington State University	Yes	Yes	5	1	67	n/r	1
TOTAL	n/a	n/a	216	496	1880		26
Grand Total (All Agencies)			4,673	5,208	18,722		1,326.45

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRIES RULES REWRITTEN USING CLEAR RULE WRITING

OLD SECTION	REWRITTEN SECTION
<p>WAC 296-17.310 General rules and instructions. This section constitutes general rules and instructions for chapter 296-17 WAC.</p> <p>(1) purposes. This chapter of the Washington Administrative Code, including classifications of risk, premium rates, the experience rating plan, and all other rules contained herein governing the use thereof, is herein referred to as the manual. This manual is promulgated by the department of labor and industries pursuant to RCW 51.16.035. This manual contains a formulation of the rules and regulations providing for basic classifications, rates of premium, method of premium calculation and collection, and a rating system, consistent with recognized principles of workers' compensation insurance. This manual governs the department's underwriting of workers' compensation insurance and assessment of other monetary obligations, under the industrial insurance law of the state of Washington, Title 51 RCW.</p> <p>(WAC 296-17-310 was repealed)</p>	<p>WAC 296-17-31001 Introduction. WAC 296-17-31001 through 296-17-31029 provides rules applicable to workers' compensation insurance coverage (industrial insurance) that employers in the state of Washington must provide for their workers. We refer to these rules (WACs) as sections and the complete body of information as the <i>workers' compensation underwriting manual</i>. The workers' compensation underwriting manual contains sections (WACs) that define or explain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Words and phrases which we use - Who the workers' compensation system applies to - How to obtain workers' compensation coverage - Why a classification system is necessary - How our classification plan is designed - How our classification approach compares to other states - How we assign classifications to your business - How we classify your business if a specific classification treatment is not referenced in our classification plan - How employers report and pay premiums to us - How we compute base rates - Audit and recordkeeping requirements - Experience rating plan - Base rate tables.
<p>WAC 296-24-20507 Shafting.</p> <p>(2) Guarding horizontal shafting.</p> <p>(a) All exposed parts of horizontal shafting seven feet or less from floor or working platform excepting runways used exclusively for oiling, or running adjustments, shall be protected by a stationary casing enclosing shafting completely or by a trough enclosing sides and top or sides and bottom of shafting as location requires.</p>	<p>WAC 296-24-20513 When may a guardrail be used as a safeguard?</p> <p>(1) An employer may use a guardrail as a safeguard for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A runway used only for oiling, maintenance, running adjustment, or repair work.
<p>WAC 296-24-20507 Shafting.</p> <p>(2)(b) Shafting under bench machines shall be enclosed by a stationary casing, or by a trough at sides and top or sides and bottom, as location requires. The sides of the trough shall come within at least six inches of the under side of table, or if shafting is located near floor within six inches of floor. In every case the sides of trough shall extend at least two inches beyond the shafting or protuberance.</p>	<p>WAC 296-24-20517 What are the additional requirements for shafting</p> <p>(3) An employer may safeguard shafting under a bench machine by using a guard that extends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Within 6 inches of the underside of the table or the floor; and (b) At least 2 inches beyond the shafting

OLD SECTION	REWRITTEN SECTION
<p>WAC 296-24-20511 Belt, rope, and chain drives.</p> <p>(6) Belt tighteners.</p> <p>(a) Suspended counterbalanced tighteners and all parts thereof shall be of substantial construction and securely fastened; the bearings shall be securely capped. Means must be provided to prevent tightener from falling, in case the belt breaks.</p> <p>(c) Belt tighteners, used for starting and stopping machinery, other than those which are securely held in "off" or "out of service" position by gravity, shall be provided with means or mechanism that will securely hold the belt tightener away from the belt when the machine or part thereof driven by the belt is not in use. Such means or mechanism shall be automatic in its action in gripping, latching or otherwise fastening itself to and holding the belt tightener in "off" or "out of service" position until manually released. (Released by hand.)</p>	<p>WAC 296-24-20525 What are the additional requirements for belt shifters?</p> <p>(5) An employer must ensure that a belt tightener used to activate machinery:</p> <p>(a) Is substantially constructed and securely fastened,</p> <p>(b) Has bearings securely capped;</p> <p>(c) Has a mechanism to prevent it from falling; and</p> <p>(d) Is securely held in the "off" position by gravity, or by an automatic mechanism that must be released by hand.</p>

Two Examples of Repealed "Silly" Rules

OLD WAC	REPEALED WAC
<p>WAC 296-50-230 Nitrocotton screening and drying houses</p> <p>(6) Employees whose clothing may contain or be covered with nitro-cotton must not answer fire alarms, assist in fighting fires or leave plant until clothing has been changed.</p>	<p>WAC 296-50-230 Nitrocotton screening and drying houses</p> <p>(6) Employees whose clothing may contain or be covered with nitro-cotton must not answer fire alarms, assist in fighting fires or leave plant until clothing has been changed.</p>
<p>WAC 296-50-080 General Regulations</p> <p>(3) A search of the employees for matches shall be made frequently, and at no time shall the interval between searches exceed one month.</p>	<p>WAC 296-50-080 General Regulations</p> <p>(3) A search of the employees for matches shall be made frequently, and at no time shall the interval between searches exceed one month.</p>
<p>WAC 296-24-23529 Operators.</p> <p>(2) No person should be permitted to operate a crane who cannot speak and read the English language, or who is under eighteen years of age.</p>	<p>WAC 296-24-23529 Operators.</p> <p>(2) Crane operators must be able to communicate with others at the worksite sufficiently to understand the signs, notices, operation instructions, and the signal code in use to ensure safe operation of the crane.</p> <p>(3) No minor under eighteen years of age shall be employed in occupations involving the operation of any power-driven hoisting apparatus or assisting in such operations by work such as hooking on, loading slings, rigging gear, etc.</p>